

(c) Opium deposited as aforesaid will remain there at the risk of the importer, who shall be at liberty to keep it in his own boxes and under his own keys and seals and to remove it to his shops at such times as the Collector of the district may determine and in such quantities at a time as he may require for use, not being less than the minimum quantity to be fixed by the Collector; he shall not be entitled to have access to the place of deposit except during office hours, nor without special permission of the Collector or other officer duly empowered by the Collector to grant such permission.

(d) The quantity of opium to be removed from the place of deposit shall, on each occasion, be presented to the officer in charge of the place for weighment and registration, and shall be covered by a pass in the Form C attached to the rules: (G. N. No. 2533, dated 11th April 1893.)

V.—POSSESSION OF OPIUM.

1. Government do not consider that sufficiently strong grounds have been shown for moving the Government of India to modify the amendment of the Opium Rules reducing the quantity of opium, which may be legally possessed, from ten to two tolas.

It appears to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the difficulties in the way of working the special permit system have been somewhat overestimated. It is not necessary that a fresh permit should be granted every time a man wants to buy opium, nor that the power of granting such permits should be confined to one officer, though care would, of course have to be taken that they were not made use of to cover possession of smuggled opium. It is the desire of Government that everything possible should be done to meet difficulties by the grant of special permits to persons such as sea-faring men and others whose habits or avocations would make it a hardship to enforce the rule strictly. (G. L. to Comr. of C., S., O. & A., No. 286-P, dated 1st August 1893: *vide* also G. L. to G. of I. No. 5859, dated 12th idem).

2. The special permits referred to in Rule 6(b)* of the rules under the Opium Act should be in the annexed form. This form should be printed trilingually—(a) in English and Gujaráti, (b) in English and Maráthi, and (c) in English and Kánarese:—

* Rule 6 (b).—The Collector may grant to any person a special permit authorizing him, for a specified period, to have in his possession for private consumption only a specified quantity of opium in excess of 2 tolas.

OPIMUM.]

Special Permit for the possession of opium in excess of 2 tolas for private consumption.	Special Permit for the sale of opium in excess of 2 tolas for private consumption.	Special Permit for the possession of opium in excess of 2 tolas for private consumption.
No. , dated 189	No. , dated 189	No. , dated 189
Name of applicant	To The Opium Retail Shop-keeper at	of taluka, zilla, is hereby
Residence	You are hereby authorised to sell tolas of opium to of taluka for private consumption on the occasion of	authorised to purchase tolas of opium from the opium retail shop at and to keep the same in possession for use on the occasion of
Quantity of opium to be possessed	This permit shall be valid up to the day of 189 inclusive.	This permit shall be valid up to the day of 189 inclusive.
Shop at which to be purchased		
Occasion on which to be used		
Duration		
Collector (or other officer empowered).	Collector (or other officer empowered).	Collector (or other officer empowered).

(G. R. No. 2844; dated 22nd April 1893.)

VI.—SALES, FARMS AND LICENSES.

1. Great care should be taken to ascertain that tenderers for opium farms are men of substance and to see that suitable security is taken for the due fulfilment of the contracts immediately the tenders are accepted. (G. R. No. 7495, dated 22nd October 1886.)

2. The departmental sale of opium is on no account to be permitted. The object of Government is not to promote, but rather by taxation to restrict, the consumption of opium. In places where the sale of opium is obviously insufficient, and a license is taken out merely as a cloak for smuggling, it is better to stop issuing licenses. (G. I., F. D., No. 870, dated 31st January 1874; *vide* G. R. No. 836, dated 16th February 1874.)

3. Licenses for the retail sale of opium should be issued, and all opium accounts as well as the opium administration report should be framed, for the revenue year. (G. R. No. 1421, dated 15th March 1879.)

4. With a view to distinguish licit from illicit opium, the opium balls issued from Government depôts should have a narrow strip of calico or tape threaded through them, brought round, and the ends tied together and sealed. A small piece of paper or cloth should be placed between the opium and the ends of the strip of calico or tape which are to be tied and sealed, so as to prevent the wax from actually touching the opium. This plan should be adopted, except in districts like Karáchi, where the quantity issued to licensed vendors at a time is less than one entire ball of opium.

(2) The licensed vendor should be required in retailing opium to cut off as far as possible only the required quantity from the sealed balls in the presence of customers, and should be ordered not to have in his possession more than one broken ball of opium at a time for sale to customers.

(3) The Collectors of Districts should issue notices, to be posted at all the principal market towns